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THE BAPTIST Record

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Most popular film not on Oscar favorites list

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — It didn't win an Oscar or appear on any critics' "top 10" lists. It's 20 years old. It features no major stars. It's not even the best movie about Jesus Christ from an artistic viewpoint.

What, then, makes the film called "Jesus" so remarkable? For starters, consider these numbers:

- ◆ At least 1.5 billion people in more than 220 countries have seen "Jesus" in theaters, on television, via video or — still the most common method — watching 16-mm reels projected onto portable screens, sheets, or walls.

- ◆ More than 73 million people have publicly declared their decision to follow Christ after seeing the film.

- ◆ "Jesus" has been dubbed into more than 450 languages, making it the most widely translated production in film history.

Hundreds more translations are in the works.

- ◆ More than 800 mission agencies now partner with the Jesus Film Project, an arm of Campus Crusade for Christ, to evangelize the lost, disciple new believers, and start churches using "Jesus." Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries remain the largest



CHRIST CRUCIFIED — The Lord approaches death in the crucifixion scene from the "Jesus" film. With the right introduction, viewers previously untouched by the gospel can quickly understand Jesus is the Son of God, not just "a compassionate man ... cruelly put to death," observes J.O. Terry, a media missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. (Copyright by "Jesus" Film Project. Used by permission.)

single group of users besides the project's own workers.

- ◆ Nearly 2,000 film teams devote themselves exclusively to screening "Jesus" for people around the world — often in the face of violent opposition.

One Uzbek convert who showed the film 25 times was arrested, tortured, and dumped into a mental hospital. In Laos, a

preacher spent months in a bamboo cage when an official's wife was caught watching "Jesus."

In Nigeria, hostile locals tried to drown one film team worker. Extremist Muslims threw rocks during the screening. Every member of the film team was bitten by scorpions. More than 500 people saw "Jesus."

Film team members in India were beaten by militants and ordered to worship a monkey god. "Only Jesus is our God," team members replied. They were beaten even more savagely, then warned never to return. Battered and bleeding, they stumbled away, praying all the while for their attackers.

What is the power of this film? Part of it lies in a simple fact: When people see "Jesus," they see Jesus — and understand his words — often for the first time.

"Jesus speaks our language!" joyously cried one elderly woman in Mozambique after seeing the first showing of "Jesus" in her Makhuwa language. IMB missionaries spearheaded the Makhuwa version of "Jesus," and saw thousands come to Christ and many churches planted among Mozambique's 5 million Makhuwa, considered the largest unreached animistic people group in Africa.

"I've just learned that Jesus speaks Bengali," wrote another woman after seeing it in Bangladesh. The revelation of hearing him speak in one's "heart language" usually overcomes barriers raised by the fact that a white, Western actor is playing Jesus on the screen.

"We start the showing without any promotion or advertisement," explains a film worker in a Muslim North African city, "and people will start coming from everywhere. By the time we finish, there are several thousand people on both sides of the screen, so we start the film all over."

Impossible? Not if the dedicated Christians showing the film have anything to do with it. Jesus promised: "I, if I be lifted up ... will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32, KJV).

The "Jesus" film lifts him up — and he is drawing people by the millions.

Praying for 'Jesus' film

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Prayer and church involvement can build the already-considerable momentum of the "Jesus" film worldwide. In prayer:

- ◆ Pray for the rapid production of "Jesus" in 42 high-priority languages identified by The Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) strategists.

- ◆ Pray for the safety of missionaries and film teams showing "Jesus" in hostile areas, and for the salvation of those people opposed to showing the film.

- ◆ Pray that the "Jesus" Film Project will reach its end-of-millennium goal: giving every person on earth a chance to see the film about the Son of God.

- ◆ Pray that the revamped audio program, The Story of Jesus, will reach hundreds of millions of listeners in restricted areas via radio and audiocassettes.

Churches can help the "Jesus" film make an impact among those who need to hear the good news of salvation through two opportunities:

- ◆ "Jesus" film language dubbing: \$20,000 pays for a lip-synch dubbing of the film into a priority language identified by IMB missionaries.

- ◆ 16-mm "Jesus" film prints cost \$900 each. This format remains the most effective way to present the film to large crowds in many places.

For more information or to get involved, call the Southern Baptist International Mission Board development office at (800) 362-1322.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

WMU leader to retire



Legislation surveyed



USPS ups rates



Evang. Conf. convenes



Looking back

10 years ago

Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of New Sight Church, Brookhaven, is honored for 20 years of service to the church. Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president Nell Strube presents Wright and his wife Marguerite with a quilt made by the members of the WMU.

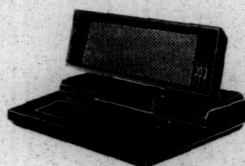
20 years ago

Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, licenses Steven Morse, Thomas Michael Weeks, and Don Dent to the Gospel Ministry. In the same service, the church also ordains Lloyd Thornton as deacon. Julius Thompson is pastor.

50 years ago

"Every Vocation for Christ" is the theme of Vocational Emphasis Week at Mississippi Woman's College in Hattiesburg. J.W. Parrish, pastor of First Church, Laurel, brings the final chapel address, which was the high point of the week, according to Louise Waddell, Baptist Student Union head.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Sarah's story

Five-year-old Sarah Brown died peace-
fully in Kansas on the morning of
Sept. 28, 1998, surrounded by her lov-
ing family. Children are born and children
die every day in this country, but Sarah's
story is in a special category.

Sarah was an abortion survivor, and that
part of her story is so repulsive that the fol-
lowing warning must be made: If you are
sickened by the graphic details of late-term
abortion, you may decide it best not to read
on. There is simply no way to tell Sarah's
story without including those details.

On the other hand, if you believe abor-
tion is a simple, out-patient proce-
dure undertaken early in a preg-
nancy to flush out the "product of
conception," maybe you should
read on.

Nearing full term and within a
few days of giving birth, Sarah's
mother decided to undergo a chem-
ical abortion. Since full-term babies
like Sarah cannot be easily dismem-
bered and pulled from the womb,
the abortionist chose to directly
inject toxic chemicals into Sarah's
brain *in utero*.

Childbirth was then induced to
hasten the expelling of the Sarah's
intact corpse.

Such chemical abortions are legal
and successfully accomplished
many times each day in America on full-
term and near full-term babies.

Two days later, however, Sarah was
born alive. The abortionist's poison-filled
needle had found its mark, though — she
had three visible puncture wounds above
an eyebrow and at the base of her skull.

The chemicals and the stress of surviv-
ing her violent birth soon took their toll on
Sarah. At six months of age, her apparent-
ly-normal progress was destroyed by a
stroke. She was blind, and never walked
or talked.

Because she ingested *in utero* a signifi-
cant amount of the chemical meant to kill
her, she also developed a progressive air-
way disease that made breathing increas-
ingly difficult.

Yet she struggled for life for the next five
years under the care of Bill and Marykay

**"YOU HAVE YOUR
LAND. NOW, HELP
YOUR BRETHREN
GET THEIRS!"**



**"YOU'VE BEEN
SAVED. NOW,
BRING YOUR
FRIENDS TO
JESUS."**



Brown and their family, who legally adopt-
ed her and provided for her until she died
in their arms.

Sarah's organs were donated to save the
lives of several ill children. Even her
healthy corneas, blinded for so long, gave
sight to two children.

Would that Sarah's story also give each
of us sight — of the spiritual kind, to com-
prehend the toll abortion has taken on our
hearts and souls. Since America became
blind to this holocaust in 1973, 37,000,000
people have gone to their deaths before
they ever knew life.

The millions of Sarah's stories over the
past 26-years provide us with a portrait of
what we have become as a society:

◆ A few months ago Gail Chadwick,
spokesperson for Pro-Choice Mississippi,
offered this reasoning: "It is far more cost
effective to terminate an unwanted preg-
nancy than to force a woman to have an
unwanted baby, then pay to have to sup-
port that baby for 18 years. The state would
save a great deal of money if it funded
abortions for poor women."

◆ A growing number of Americans are
apparently opting to put to death perfectly
healthy older pets for no greater reason
than to make room for "more interesting
and fun" younger pets.³

◆ Outside Chino Hills, Calif., children
playing on a highway embankment found
the jumbled remains of 54 aborted babies,
dumped there by the trucker hired by a
local abortion clinic to dispose of the detri-
tus of their trade.

The trucker was convicted, of all things,
for improper disposal of medical waste.

Such is the status of life in our modern,
enlightened society. Babies are too cost-
inefficient to bring into the world. Family
pets are expendable on a whim. Unborn
human beings are nothing more than med-
ical waste.

Medical waste to society, maybe, but
never to God.

¹ National Right to Life News, Nov. 17, 1998.

² The Clarion-Ledger, Sept. 4, 1998.

³ The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30, 1998.

⁴ George Will, Washington Post Writer's Group.

GUEST OPINION:



It can't happen here!

*By Cary Worthington, pastor
West Laurel Church, Laurel*

Iused to be embarrassed
over the lack of my parents
formal education. Mom
had only gone as far as the
fourth grade and my stepdad
only through the sixth grade.

I didn't realize it at the time
but they were wise beyond
their level of formal education
and always very opinionated.
Being that these were the days
that preceded the era of politi-
cal correctness, it was accept-
able to voice one's opinion.

I well remember their reaction
to the *Roe v. Wade* decision in
1973. My dad looked at my mom
from the paper he was reading
and replied, "Well now that they
have made it legal to kill unborn
babies, I guess they'll make it
legal to kill old folks like us."

My mother was horrified,
but she essentially agreed, and
both had a discussion about the
gradual cheapening of life in
the eyes of the state.

I did what any college gradu-
ate would do: I repeated what
I had learned in my liberal arts
classes and assured my folks
that euthanasia and the cheap-
ening of human life would
never happen here.

After all, this was still the
United States of America — the
Land of the Free and the Home
of the Brave. That is what my
profs told me in college.

Not only was I wrong, but
my professors were wrong.
Senators and Congressmen
around the country were wrong.
They were all wrong, and my
mother and father were right on
the money. It was as if they pos-
sessed the gift of prophecy.

I learned that instead of
being prophets they were
knowledgeable of the biblical
law of reciprocity. Some refer to
the verse about sowing and
reaping in the New Testament
but my favorite is in the Old
Testament: "Surely the churn-

ing of milk bringeth forth but-
ter, and the wringing of the
nose bringeth forth blood: so
the forcing of wrath bringeth
forth strife." (Pro. 30:33).

Time and space prohibit me
from chronicling the cavorting
of Jack Kevorkian, but isn't it
amazing that several juries have
seen fit to release and exonerate
"Dr. Death" because they sym-
pathize with his mercy?

People are quick to point out
that physician-assisted suicide
is not euthanasia, but recently
CBS aired a tape of Kevorkian
actually administering the
lethal dose of drugs himself.

He intended things to be this
way and dares any of the courts
to convict him.

Whether he is convicted or
not, the trend is clear. We are
traveling the same road as the
Netherlands.

They started with physician
assisted suicide and have now
progressed to full blown
euthanasia.

Not in this country? My
(once respected) professors
said it wouldn't happen here.
They were wrong.

We in America have not
desired to retain the knowledge
of God in our minds, and so
our foolish hearts have become
vain and darkened.

Where are those who are
supposed to be salt and light?
Where are God's people?

Still wagging their unin-
formed heads and covering
their eyes and muttering to
themselves that "it can't hap-
pen here."

It's time we wake up, before
we are slowly put to sleep by
some kindly physician who
doesn't believe God is the sole
author of life and death.

God help us wake up, stand
up, and declare our love. The
life we save may be our own.

Lord save us from ourselves.

Annie Armstrong Offering exceeds \$43.3M goal

TALLEDEGA, Ala. (BP) — For the sixth year in a row, Southern Baptists last year set another record in giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Total gifts were \$43.3 million, five percent more than the previous year.

The result was announced Jan. 10 by Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), to the national executive board of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

"Thank you for everything you do to impact the raising of the Annie Armstrong Offering," Reccord told the WMU leaders, meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist assembly center at Talledega, Ala.

"Without you and your people in the churches, it simply wouldn't happen."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director/treasurer, joined Reccord in expressing appreciation and noted the total exceeded the national goal of \$42 million — the first time in 17 years the offering has reached its goal.

"We look at goals and wonder if we've raised them to the point that we can't reach them," O'Brien said, "but God is allowing his people to see the importance of giving to provide the resources necessary to meet the challenges of world evangelism. I'm glad we're a part of it."

The 1999 offering, which will be conducted in SBC churches this spring, will support the work of 5,000 missions personnel in the United States, its territories and Canada, most of whom are jointly appointed and supported with state Baptist conventions.

More than one-third of NAMB's income is derived from

the offering, 100% of which supports the missionaries and their work starting new SBC churches, providing Christian ministry, and evangelism.

Randy Singer, NAMB executive vice president, told WMU leaders, "We were able to get more money to the field last year than ever before, and saw record numbers of missionary appointments and applications for mission service."

NAMB appointed 251 new missionaries last year, according to Singer — a 50% increase over the average for the three previous years.

Also, 371 applicants went through the interview process in 1998 compared with an average of 200 per year in previous years.

"The Lord is matching a record year in Annie Armstrong giving with a turning of Southern Baptists' hearts

to missions at a level unknown before," Singer said.

Challenging days lie ahead, Reccord said, because "the upcoming generation doesn't have the same loyalty to our denomination as we had. We must find creative ways to reach the baby buster generation."

"The millennial generation takes a whole different strategy," Reccord said. "If we're going to reach North America for Christ, we must color outside the lines, get outside the box, and realize that one size doesn't fit all anymore."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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O'Brien to retire from WMU on Sept. 1

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), announced her plans to retire Sept. 1, during WMU's executive board Jan. 9-13 meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly at Talladega, Ala.

O'Brien, 65, made the announcement Jan. 12 during her address to the board.

WMU President Wanda Lee appointed a search committee composed of WMU board members to find O'Brien's successor in the closing session of the board meeting on Jan. 13.

The search committee includes Rebecca Williams of Gautier, president of Mississippi WMU and an executive board member.

A Texas native, O'Brien took the helm of the national Southern Baptist missions education organization Sept. 1, 1989. She will have served the nearly 111-year-old organization exactly 10 years at her retirement.

O'Brien told the WMU executive board, state and national WMU staff members, and guests attending the meeting she had been talking with Lee about her retirement for a year.

O'Brien noted she had told Lee of her retirement date early last summer and the stroke she suffered last Sept. 26 did not factor into her decision to retire.

Acknowledging in her address "WMU has faced some of its hardest days this decade," O'Brien proudly pointed to the organization's many successes during the past 10 years.

Topping her list was the record-setting gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, both of which were started by WMU in 1888 and 1895 respectively to support Southern Baptist missions work.

O'Brien also cited the organization's involvement in projects related to hunger; AIDS and child advocacy; a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build eight houses; and the development of Christian Women's Job Corps, a job training program which seeks to help women in poverty to gain self-sufficiency.

"God has both revealed his will to us and enabled us to be on mission for him," she told the WMU audience.

"He has protected us in the midst of criticism and directed us in times of confusion. Never have we been so aware of his guidance and love."

"It has been my high honor to serve as your executive director this decade," O'Brien continued. "Never have I worked harder and never have I been so happy in my assignment."

"Many times I have said that the closeness of family we knew with our missionary colleagues in Indonesia has been replaced with the oneness of purpose and spirit with WMU sisters. We have prayed together, laughed together, and cried together. We have known good days and bad, rejoicing and grieving. In each and every situation, I have found you faithful and long-suffering. Never have blessings so abounded," O'Brien said.

Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, in a Jan. 14 statement, said, "I pray for her God's abundant blessings in retirement. Her heart for missions is a testimony to the witness that all people around the world should hear and have an opportunity to respond to the gospel."

Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, stated, "Dellanna O'Brien's leadership has kept WMU an effective force for missions education and support in Southern Baptist churches. I am personally grateful for her friendship and encouragement, which extends back to our service together in Indonesia."

Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, said, "It is evident from your first meeting with Dellanna O'Brien that missions flows through her veins. She certainly has a grasp of what Jesus meant when he said, 'My mission is to seek and to save those that are lost.'"

Prior to her service with WMU, O'Brien was an educator and served as a missionary with her husband Bill and family in Indonesia.

Following their missionary service, the family lived in Richmond, Va., where Bill served as an administrator

with the then-Foreign Mission Board. He now teaches missions and directs the global center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala.

"My selection of these women (for the search committee) was very intentional," Lee said. "Along with the geographical representation, they also represent many audiences."

"Some are pastors' wives; others are former international missionaries; others have home missions experience; and three have experience in working with search committees looking for WMU executive directors for their states."

Lee said the committee will meet for the first time in February. The process for selecting a national executive director is clearly defined and involves several steps before recommendations will be accepted.

Lee, a registered nurse from Georgia, said further announcements about the process will be made in the coming weeks.



ROLL CALL OF LEADERS — With her plans to retire on Sept. 1, 1999, Dellanna W. O'Brien (second from left) joins the ranks of WMU's former executive directors, Alma Hunt, 1948-1974 (second from right), and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, 1974-1989 (right). O'Brien's husband Bill (left) joined his wife after her announcement. Both Hunt and Crumpler regularly attend WMU executive board and other special events. O'Brien said she "looked forward to sitting next to Carolyn and Alma, cheering you onward, and being right in the middle of things." (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)

LifeWay opens discipleship Internet site

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — DisciplePLUS!, an Internet site produced by the adult discipleship department at LifeWay Christian Resources, became available through LifeWay's site on the World Wide Web at www.lifeway.com on Jan. 8.

The direct address for the DisciplePLUS! site is www.lifeway.com/discipleplus.

LifeWay sites related to specific topics may be reached by accessing the LifeWay Christian Resources home page at www.lifeway.com and clicking on the words "LifeWay Sites" in the menu on the left side of the page.

More bills added for '99 legislative session

Additional bills have been introduced in the 1999 Legislature since the first report in the January 14 issue of The Baptist Record.

Several bills listed on the previous report have already been placed on the legislative calendar and could be voted on at any time. Persons concerned about pending legislation should express their concern to their legislators as soon as possible.

Due to space limitations, bills listed in previous weeks will not be repeated.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS INCLUDING TOBACCO

HB 475 authorizes the use of ignition interlock in DUI convictions. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2452 creates drug-free zones around public housing. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2453 prohibits the after hours consumption of beer on premises licensed for legal sales. CAC recommendation: Support.

CHILDREN

HB 659 removes the distinction between legitimate child and illegitimate child for child support and allows a retroactive order. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 709, 710, and 711 require a parent to contribute to child support in proportion to financial ability. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 715 requires bingo operators and casinos to verify if winners have outstanding child support judgments against them. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2060 declares that a court may not give preference to one parent over another in a child custody hearing. CAC recommendation: Support.

CHURCHES

HB 293 exempts churches and religious associations exempt under 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code from paying sales tax on purchase of tangible personal property and services. CAC recommendation: Strongly support.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 80 revises the law on fondling to apply to certain minors. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2001 reinstates the penalty for statutory rape. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2462 prohibits the use of the Internet to lure and seduce minors. CAC recommendation: Support.

FAMILY

HB 605 requires counseling prior to the issuing of a marriage license. CAC recommendation: Support.

GAMBLING

HB 712 allows legal gambling in any county electing to do so. CAC recommendation: Strongly Oppose.

HB 717 prohibits cash-producing (ATM) or credit-producing machines in casinos. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 744 legalizes pari-mutuel betting on horse racing when approved by local option election. CAC recommendation: Oppose.

Persons desiring to contact legislators about specific bills or resolutions may do so by calling the Capitol at (601) 359-3770, or by writing them at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson MS 39215-1018.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) can provide additional information on pending legislation and on legislators by district represented, and can be contacted by calling toll-free (800) 748-1651, toll (601) 292-3329, or by FAX at (601) 292-3350.

The CAC mailing address is P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Mississippi associations stage Christmas projects

Many of the 68 Mississippi Baptist Associations were deeply involved in helping the needy during the 1998 holiday season. A sampling of the projects:

Neshoba Association — DOM (Director of Missions) Henry Mike Smith reported that Neshoba Baptists provided more than 400 children with a Christmas toy valued at least \$10. In addition, food and clothing donated by the churches is distributed year-round.

Simpson Association — While Simpson Association maintains a Crisis Center year-round, during the Christmas season they also provided toys for children through a cooperative effort of area businesses, churches, and the association, according to DOM Farris Smith. This year there were applications from 158 families that included some 451 children.

Winston Association — DOM Paul Blanchard, anticipated giving away over 1,000 gifts to more than 300 children, as an extension of the Christian Ministry Center which assists needy families year-round. Blanchard said 213 people prayed to receive Christ because of this ministry.

Tishomingo Association — DOM Bobby Cobb reported that while the association is not sponsoring any projects, he knew of eight churches that conducted benevolent projects.

Clarke Association — DOM Grady Crowell reported that after Quitman Junior High students of Renee Grubbs and Elisha Herrington read material about Mother Teresa, they donated 199 items of food and toys.

Lauderdale Association — The 47 churches of Lauderdale Association support the Lauderdale Baptist Crisis Center, a year-round ministry effort, according to DOM Wayne Edwards. During Christmas, they distributed around 300 food baskets containing enough food to prepare a hearty holiday dinner as well as several staple food items.

Union County Association — DOM Marvin Cox said their associational Clothing Closet had an annual toy giveaway before Christmas. As many as 500 toy items were given away to the 70 families who participated, representing about 280 people. Cox added that volunteer workers invested around 30 hours each in preparing for the giveaway.

Jackson County Association — DOM Ernie Sadler said that in 1997 they received donations from several individuals in memory of W. R. Storie Sr. At the direc-

tion of his widow, the funds were given to the widows of church and associational staff people who had served and were residing in Jackson County. Ten widows each received a gift of \$100. Sadler said everyone was so pleased with the gifts they gave them again this Christmas. He hopes it will become an annual ministry.

Lee Association — DOM Bill Smith reported several Lee area businesses adopted families for Christmas. Bob Kelly of East Heights Church, coordinator for the association's prison ministry, coordinated 14 churches in reaching 200 children of parents who are in the state corrections system.

The Flea Market ministry also raised \$1,750, which allowed up to 100 children to have Christmas this year. All total, Smith estimated over 100 families and over 500 children will be touched through these and other ministry efforts.

These examples are just a small representation of the often-unheralded work being done by Mississippi Baptists through local associations to help the poor and needy during Christmas — and year-round.

Bill Smith of Lee Association pointed out that as people receive physical help, they also receive spiritual counsel.

"We share Jesus with them," he said.

Through these efforts, Mississippi Baptist associations and directors of missions are doing their part in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Contact your local association to find out how you can become involved.

Compiled by Associate Editor Carl M. White.

WMU-Habitat blitz plans moving forward



A planning meeting for the ministry aspect of the WMU-Habitat for Humanity housing blitz is set for Jan. 28 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the dining room at the Family Life Center of First Church, Jackson, according to Lisa Strong, chairperson of the ministry committee. The housing blitz is part of a nationwide joint effort of WMU and Habitat for Humanity to build eight houses from Sept. 1998-Aug. 1999. The Mississippi project is set for July 11-17 in inner city Jackson.

Construction workers for the project are being secured through the national WMU office. Locally, volunteers are needed for a number of ministry projects planned for the surrounding neighborhood during the six days of construction. Volunteers are also needed for preparing food, transporting workers, and making sure plenty of water is available.

Persons interested in joining the planning process are encouraged to attend the meeting on Jan. 28, or to contact the state WMU office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

JESSE "THE BODY"

Unless you've been living in Baghdad the last few months, you've seen and heard one of America's newest governors, Jesse "The Body" Ventura of Minnesota.

What an interesting guy, and what a strange turn of political fortunes that brought him to the governor's office — a former Navy Seal, ex-professional wrestler, mayor, and now governor.

After having wrestled under the name of Jesse "The Body" Ventura, on the day of his gubernatorial victory he announced that name was changed to Jesse "The Brain" Ventura.

I certainly would not argue the fact that from time to time Mississippi has had some eccentric folks in the governor's chair, and from all I can tell Louisiana has a school that produces unusual governors.

Of course, Arkansas is somewhat of an oddity, for they have gone from Bill Clinton, to the governor who followed him



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

who is now in prison, to a Baptist preacher who seems to be doing a good job.

I suppose the lesson to be learned is that we all are a little bit odd — maybe abnormal — but while the media have had a field day discussing and analyzing and anticipating what Jesse will do and how Jesse will govern, the fact is that as with most positions of leadership, it will take time to see how things will eventually play out.

Several pundits have made fun of the fact that Jesse's preparation to govern was being in the elite fighting force called the Navy Seals (or Frogmen), plus the fact that he has been a popular figure in professional

wrestling as an entertainer.

What kind of qualifications are those to be governor of the state? I, along with others, have chuckled inside as I think about him having gone to such a strange school to become the head of state government.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that oftentimes what we consider to be the proper training ground for becoming governor may not have worked so well, either.

How many times have we watched men come up through the ranks of political campaigns with a legal background and become accustomed to the arena of working politics, to then become governor and become a

laughing stock and either be thrown out or sent to prison?

While I have not read or heard Governor Jesse speak of spiritual things or faith or even address ethical issues, it does seem as though he has an uncanny feeling for fairness and a strong and simple approach to wanting to do the right thing.

Apart from his background, those qualities are refreshing.

I have not heard but I do not believe that he is Baptist. However, we have been reminded in graphic terms that being wrapped in the cloak of Baptist heritage does not mean that we will govern with moral quality, ethical uprightness, or spiritual dignity.

As we watch this modern Jesse learn and lead, we might do well to recall there was a Jesse in the Bible whose son was anointed of God to become King and in time to be the greatest of the Kings of Israel.

At the moment he was the last and apparently worst choice. All of his brothers seemed to be bigger, better, brighter, and more eminently qualified to serve.

Yet God chose David. Why? In Scripture it is clear that God looks at a man's heart — not political polls or persuasion, not even accomplishments or training, but at his heart.

If a person's heart is right, everything he does seems to be bent by God in the right direction. Mistakes he makes God can turn around to good, but if his heart is wrong even the good that he does can become bad.

In this year of political posturing in our state, only God knows who will get in or get out of our governor's race.

No doubt we will have some ex-wrestlers and former warriors. No doubt we will have many who are politically astute, but hopefully God will help us to select the person with the right heart.

With the needs in our state, the problems that ought to be solved, and the opportunities that can be captured, we need that person.

While Jesse "The Body" Ventura leads in another state, I trust that a governor with a good heart will be chosen to lead Mississippi.

Church attacks denounced in India

NAGPUR, India (ABP) — Christian leaders in India denounced a series of attacks against churches and Christians during the Christmas holidays, calling on the government to protect the nation's Christian minority.

Incidents in the Dang region of Gujarat in northwestern India included the burning of churches and attacks on priests and pastors. At least seven people were reportedly treated for gunshot wounds after an armed mob of 500 attacked a church and looted nearby shops in the village of Vaki.

The attacks were prompted by militant Hindus who accused missionaries of forced conversion of Hindus. Christian leaders deny those charges.

India's prime minister criticized the attacks Jan. 4 but stopped short of calling for a ban on radical groups suspected of orchestrating the violence.

About 2.3% of India's 960 million citizens are Christians, while more than 82% are Hindus.

The National Council of Churches in India, based in Nagpur in northern India, called on the government of Gujarat to ensure "an immediate halt" to violence and threats against minorities. The NCCI said Indian Christians are not satisfied with the government's response.

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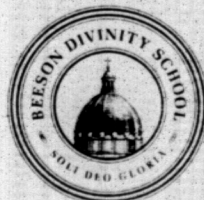
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of New Zion Church, Braxton, won second place in a poster contest. The Simpson Baptist Association sponsored the event to promote this year's National WMU Theme — Project Help: Violence. Pictured (from left) are Anna Polson, Melanie Lea, Allison Lea, Beth Smith, Raechel Ridley, Gina Beth Ridley; not pictured, Amy Shepherd. Sarah Ridley is GA leader.

Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, recently honored

Eddie Bryant, pastor for 20 years, and his wife Mary Ann. Among the special presentations was a ten-day trip to the Holy Land. A

meal was served in fellowship hall following the morning worship service.



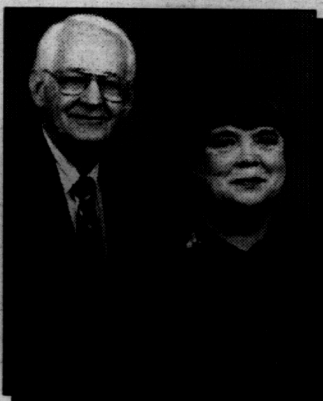
The Bryants

Reversing diabetes and obesity seminar will be held on Feb. 22-24 at Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico. Learn to naturally reverse the effects of adult-onset diabetes and obesity. For more information or to make reservations, call (800) 525-9192.

Baptist Health Systems, Jackson, has opened The Nutrition Center, staffed by health professionals who provide sound, medically-based guidance tailored to match individual needs and resources. The Nutrition Center's Registered Dietitians offer one-on-one nutrition counseling, helping clients customize

nutrition goals and plans to their individual lifestyles. For more information, call (601) 973-1624.

Brooksville Church, Brooksville, will host a 50th wedding anniversary reception in the fellowship hall on Jan. 24, 2-4 p.m., for Jerry Zgarba and his wife Virginia.



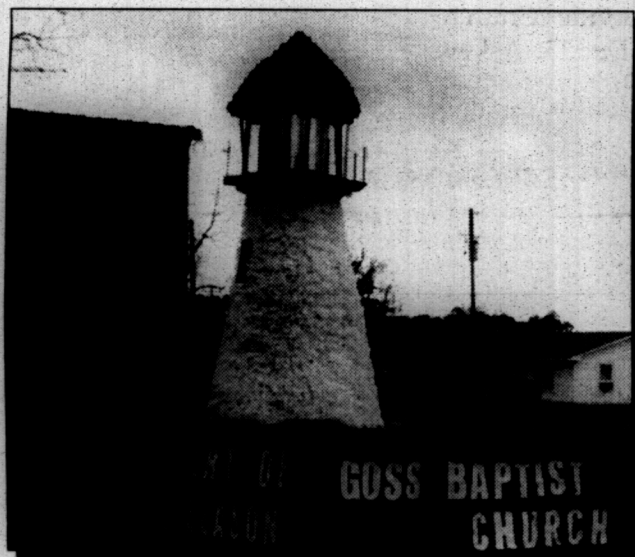
The Zgarbas Daughtry is pastor.



Johnson, Merritt, and Goldman



Farrell Blankenship, a representative of the Church Information Support Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, accepts an award at the Fifth Annual Covenant Awards in the Local Broadcast Programming Division-Spot Campaign for the "Statewide 30-second spots" produced by the CIS team. Pictured (from left) are Dennis Swanberg of West Monroe, La., Blankenship, and David Clark, vice-president of the Broadcast Communications Group, North American Mission Board (formerly Radio and TV Commission).



Goss Church float

Goss Church, Columbia, recently won "Best Overall" float in the annual Christmas parade. The float depicted a lighthouse to remind others that "Jesus is the Light of the Season". The church also received a plaque from the local Chamber of Commerce.

Thrasher Church, Prentiss Association, held a note burning service on Jan. 10 to signify the new building has been paid off. The sanctuary was destroyed by fire April 13, 1993. The new building was completed in 1994. Pictured (from left) are Ronnie Johnson, music director; Kevin Merritt, pastor; and Kenny Goldman, member of the church.



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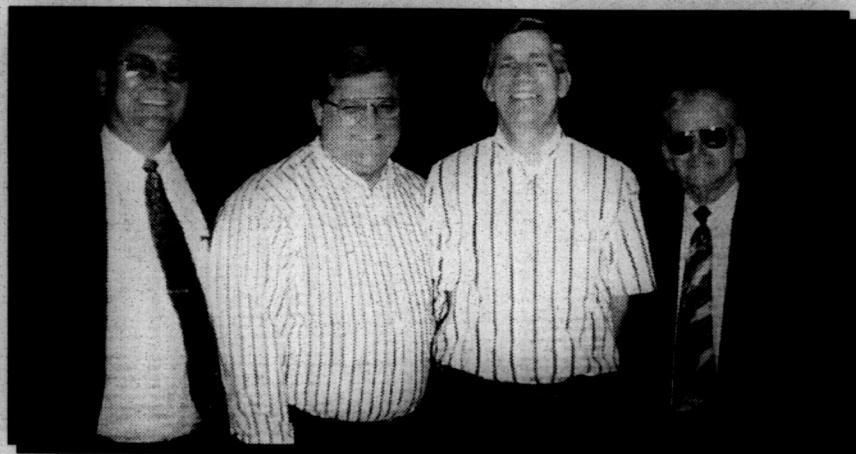
The FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy is a cooperative evangelistic venture of the North American Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Windell Lancaster was ordained to the gospel ministry at First Church, Vardaman, on Nov. 8. He has been a lay speaker for several years, served as chairman of deacons, and has been preaching as a licensed minister for more than a year. Lancaster, available for supply, interim or pastoral work, can be contacted at 112 Pin Oak Street, Vardaman, MS 38878 or call (601) 682-7752.

Scott Murphy recently received a license to the gospel ministry by Bob Robinson, pastor of Maybank Church, Lebanon Association. Also pictured with Murphy is his wife Beth and son Mitch.



Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg, recently ordained Ray Perry and Danny Allen as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Keith Fulton, pastor, Perry, Allen, and David "Jr." Wikinson, chairman of deacons.



Adams, Lancaster, and Easley



Stephens and Jones

Mike Stephens was recently ordained to the deacon ministry by Pearson Church, Pearl. Pictured (from left) are Stephens and Scott W. Jones, pastor.



Parkin and Askew

Scotty Askew is pictured receiving a Certificate of License from Raymond Parkin, pastor of Baxterville Church, Lumberton, on Dec. 13. Askew is a sophomore at Columbia Academy in Columbia.

Join Fellow Ministers Gathering for Koinonia Sponsored by: Covenant Ministerial Fellowship



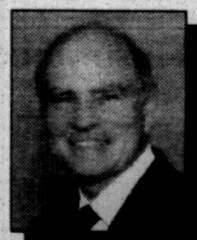
Marvin Cox
Director of Missions
Union County Association



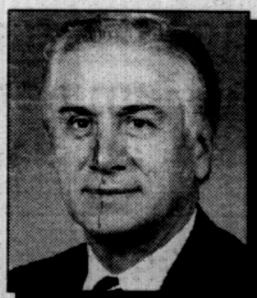
Bobby Douglas
First Baptist Church
Columbus



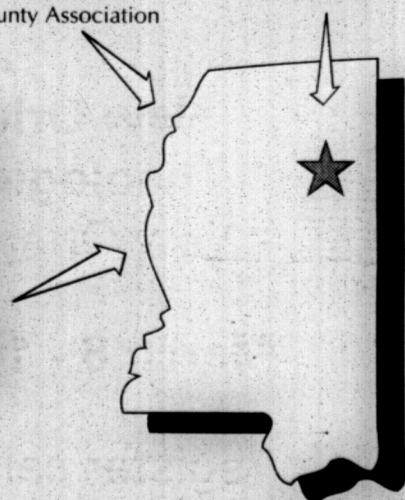
Johnny Walker
First Baptist Church
Winona



Gayle Alexander
First Baptist Church
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Bill Tolar
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THE JASPER COUNTY MS Baptist Association is in great need of a part-time director of missions. Persons interested in serving the Lord in this capacity may send resumes to Rev. William Spencer, PO Box 16, Hickory, MS 39332, or phone 601-646-9494 after 4 p.m. Deadline for receiving applications is February 11.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH is needed at Southern Hills Baptist Church. Please send resumes to Dr. Ralph E. Buckley, 210 Nelson Circle, Pearl, MS 39208; or call (601) 936-6903.

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FERRIDAY- First Church: full-time minister of education and youth; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-in, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

RODGERS ORGANS: Sales and Service. (504)524-1216.

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN ENGLAND tour July 20- August 5. English Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, St. Andrews, Edinburgh. Details: Rev. Fred Griffie, 308 E. Clover St., Harlan, KY 40831-2310. Telephone (606) 573-9711 or fax (606) 573-2311.

Church materials suffer big postal rate hike

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A sharp increase in nonprofit postal rates has prompted concerns among Baptist newspaper editors and others who monitor the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

The across-the-board rate increase took effect Jan. 10. Most visibly, first-class stamps rose from 32 cents to 33 cents — a 3.1% increase — but the cost of mailing nonprofit periodicals such as Baptist state newspapers rose 8-12%, according to Bob Terry, a member of the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and editor of The Alabama Baptist newsjournal.

"Over a year ago, the Postal Service said nonprofit costs should go up 3.6%," said Terry, who represents the Religious Press Coalition which includes the Association of State Baptist Papers. "That's what the Postal Service asked for when it filed a general rate case to raise all postal rates."

When the USPS request came before the independent Postal Rate Commission (PRC), the PRC instead gave the USPS the

8-12% increase depending on the mail's weight, method of sortation, and destination.

Likewise, in Standard "A" mail, many churches will experience sharp increases, he noted.

"For many church mailouts, such as weekly bulletins, the rate has increased an average of 9.6% for nonprofits, compared to 1.7% for a commercial piece," Terry said.

Terry suggested state Baptist newspapers and churches can partner together through the

use of local church editions, which is already available to Mississippi churches.

In a local church edition, a church prepares its newsletter as a newspaper-size page, which the state paper publishes in place of one of its regular pages containing "soft" features and other optional items.

The cost savings to such an arrangement can be significant.

"Any church that has a mailout bulletin at least twice a month can pay for the price of

the subscription to the state paper for the local church edition," Terry said. "They'll spend no more money than they're spending on the church mailout."

"If a church is mailing a weekly bulletin, we can save them money — no matter how many they're mailing."

For more information on local church editions in Mississippi, contact The Baptist Record at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, and request the church edition worksheet.

Staff changes

Parkway Church, Morton, called Jim Pender as pastor effective Jan. 3. His previous place of service was Salem Church, Walthall Association.

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If you're like millions of Americans, you have a hard time balancing convenience with health when it comes to food. It's often easier to go through a restaurant drive-thru than to plan and cook healthy meals at home. Most people recognize the need to eat healthier, but there is just too little time in today's busy schedules to do it right.

To help you make the right food choices, Baptist has opened The Nutrition Center, staffed by health professionals who provide sound, medically-based guidance tailored to match your individual needs and resources.

"Nutrition is such a basic thing that it's often overlooked, yet it's also a critical part of taking care of ourselves," said Lisa Arthur, Clinical Nutrition Manager at Baptist. "With this new service, we're pulling together many of the resources people need for balanced, healthy nutrition. There are so many food choices out there today, it's hard to know which are the right ones."

The Nutrition Center's Registered Dietitians offer one-on-one nutrition counseling, helping you customize nutrition goals and plans for your lifestyle. Those needing help with weight management can take advantage of a range of programs to help them take charge of their eating habits: New Direction, a medically monitored program designed for people needing to lose more than 40 to 50 pounds; OUTlook, for those with less than 40 pounds to lose; and LEARN® (LifeStyle, Exercise, Attitudes, Relationships and Nutrition), for those interested in moderate weight loss and improvement of overall health. Nutrition Center counselors can also help with particular health concerns such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pregnancy or diabetes.

Understanding the Benefits of Nutrition Programs
For more information, call 601-973-1624.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College (MC) Career Services Center announces its Third Annual Career Day to be held Feb. 18. The 1999 Career Day will be held in the A.E. Wood Coliseum from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be a chance for students and alumni to speak with business representatives and begin the process of finding a full-time job, summer job, or an internship. For more information, contact the Career Services Center at (601) 925-3901 or e-mail at cbaldwin@mc.edu.

MC Department of Music will present Nell Adams in a faculty recital on Jan. 25 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. For more information, contact Toni Pyle Ansel at (601) 925-3239.

MC held its first December commencement ceremony, Dec. 18. Degrees were conferred by President Howell W. Todd on 214 candidates.

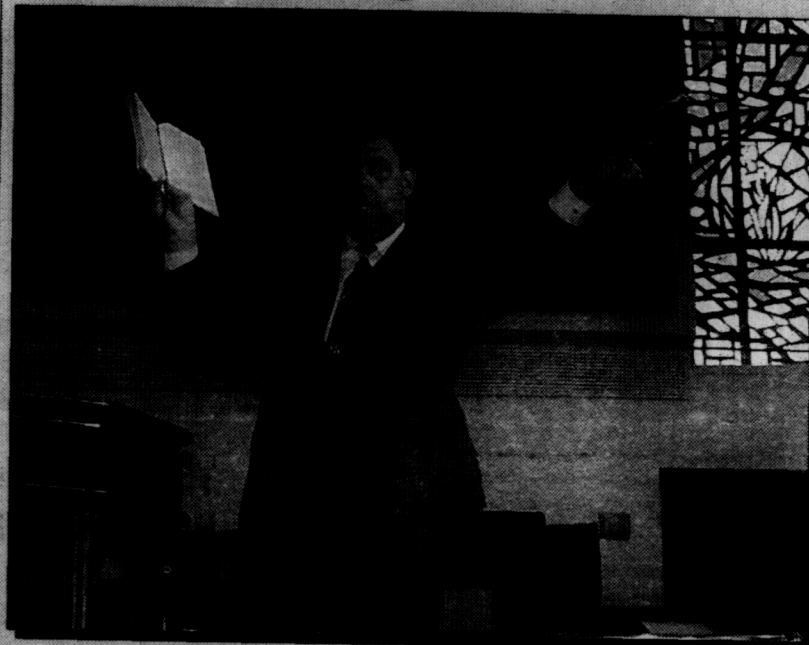
The Office of Continuing Education at MC is offering a course to assist students preparing to take the Feb. 6 offering of the American College Testing Assessment (ACT). Also offered will be a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Feb. 6 offering of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). For further information on the ACT, call (601) 925-3265; and on the LSAT, call 925-3264.

MC set a five-year campaign goal to raise \$80 million. Two years into the New Dawn campaign, that goal has been surpassed and now totals \$88 million. The Board of Trustees has announced their decision to increase the New Dawn campaign goal to \$100 million. MC recently began two new major projects on the campus which are part of the campaign improvements; the new women's residence hall and a connector building that will join Hederman

Science building with Self Hall, providing a new home for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as organic chemistry. "This was intended to be a five-year campaign and we plan on seeing it through to its conclusion. There are still a number of constituencies who have not had a chance to participate and even though we met our original goal, that doesn't mean that we are where we need to be," said Danny Rutland, MC vice president.

Registration for William Carey College's annual Homecoming is set for Fri., Dec. 29 from 3-6:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 30 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Bentley-Pope House. Class reunions will be held on Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas Business Building as part of its Homecoming celebration. For ticket reservations and more information on scheduled events contact the Alumni Office at (601) 582-6107 or (800) 962-5991 ext. 107.

Preaching the Word



Thad Hamilton, evangelism specialist for the Baptist Convention of Georgia, says, "The Bible is a book on evangelism. Don't jettison the method, just apply it," during his message from John 4:1-42 delivered Jan. 19 at the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference at Crossgates Church, Brandon. Complete coverage of the conference will be included in the Jan. 28 edition of The Baptist Record. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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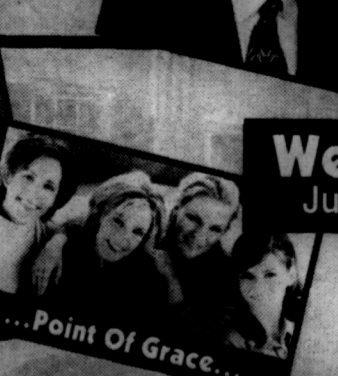


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(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

I do believe. — Faith

Mark 8:1-9:29

By Dee McDermitt

Chapter eight marks the halfway point of Mark. There are fewer miracles in the last half of the book and Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his coming crucifixion. When this passage begins, he has just returned from the mountain where he had been transfigured and had talked with Moses and Elijah before the eyes of fearful James, Peter, and John. While it was a wonderful experience and they had wanted to remain there, the show wasn't over; they still had some lessons to learn.

Lack of faith (9:14-19). In

verse 14, "they" refers to Jesus and his "inner circle" (James, Peter, and John). "Them" refers to the other nine disciples who were being challenged by a group of scribes. Again, we see these "teachers of the law" attacking Jesus' disciples when their intended target was Jesus himself. When Jesus inquires about what is going on, it wasn't so much as a show of ignorance of the situation as to draw attention away from the unsuccessful disciples who had failed to cast a demon out of a young boy. This points out a spiritual principle: the attention must not be



McDermitt

on the servant, but the Son. It also allowed the father to confess his deep need to Jesus. Again, here is a spiritual principle: we must confess our inadequacy to him. When we come to him with an accurate assessment of our situation, which is our inadequacy and his adequacy, we are then able to be helped. Jesus' reply was not only directed toward the disciples, but also to the father and to the whole generation at large. He partially quotes Psalm 95:10 and likens this generation to the Israelites who were faithless and wandered in the desert forty years. Like them, this generation would also see God's judgment.

Cry of faith (9:20-24). When the boy was brought to Jesus, the spirit manifested itself by

throwing him into a convulsion. This violent reaction came from the defeated enemy responding to Jesus' status and authority. Jesus' further inquiry allowed the father to confess his total despair in the situation and Jesus as the only source of help. It also allowed the man to speak exactly where he was in his faith. Jesus repeats his words "if you can." Compare this to the leper's "if you will." The leper did not doubt Jesus' ability, only his willingness. In response, the man continues this time "with tears" as he realizes his own lack of faith in Jesus and, in deep honesty, begs for mercy.

Response to faith (9:25-27). At this, Jesus rebukes the spirit and commands it to be gone forever. The healing was total and complete. Many in the crowd who had run to see thought that the boy was dead.

What they saw as the end of his life was actually the beginning of his new life, a life changed by faith. This faith was not just an expectation that something would happen. The disciples had that kind of faith. It was not just faith in a process or a formula, saying the right words or following the right ritual. It was the kind of faith Jesus displayed and the kind that we are called to have - a fresh, vibrant faith in a God who acts. The father's problem was a lack of faith, but the disciples' problem was a lack of prayer. When Jesus explains to them privately that "this kind can come out only by prayer," he was referring to a lifestyle of prayer, always being in touch with the Father. This keeps faith vibrant and alive.

McDermitt is a member of Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Forgiven in all situations

Matthew 18:21-35

By Carl M. White

Some have referred to this parable as the disgracing of grace, for the servant who had been forgiven so much was unwilling to forgive a little. This is an outrageous parable. Why does Jesus tell such a story? Some commentators say this parable is in response to the question of Peter in verse 21, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Forgiving principle stated (vv. 21-22). In the Old Testament, a standard of forgiveness is given in prophetic literature. For example, eight times in the book of Amos we find, "For three transgressions . . . and for four, I will not revoke the punish-

ment." These judgment oracles are against the enemies of Israel. Three transgression would be forgiven, but after the fourth comes judgment.

Peter, wanting to demonstrate how magnanimous he is, indicates he is willing to forgive a brother up to seven times, which is the three required times, doubled, plus one to boot! Jesus, however, was not impressed. Neither is he impressed with our feeble attempts at magnanimity.

Jesus' answer undoubtedly stunned Peter. Not just seven times, but 70 times seven. By this answer Jesus was not saying there is a quantitative limit to forgiveness. In other words, you have to forgive someone



White

490 times. Rather, Jesus is saying there is no quantitative limit to forgiveness.

For adults, forgiveness is difficult. We fancy ourselves as forgiving, but in reality, many love to harbor a grudge. As Christians we are called upon to bring a different set of standards to life. In the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus illustrates why.

Forgiveness principle illustrated (vv. 23-35). This story is called a Kingdom parable, which is a parable demonstrating how things are to go in the Kingdom of God. There are a couple of facts about this parable that help make it clearer to the reader.

First, this is about a far eastern kingdom, not Israel. It is about a satrap, a high government official, who is caught embezzling money from the king.

Second, the amount of money involved is staggering.

A talent was the largest known currency in the Roman world. It is impossible to accurately translate 10,000 talents into today's dollar. Some say it could be as small as several million dollars to as much as one trillion dollars!

In other words, this high government official is charged with stealing the fortune of the kingdom. Utterly amazing is the fact that the satrap promises to repay the entire amount (which he never could), and that this is accepted and he is forgiven.

This forgiven high government official now finds a lowly government employee and demands repayment of an amount loaned (not stolen). The amount is small, roughly four months' wages. The lowly employee uses the same words as the high government official; "Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything." (vv. 26, 29) However, he would do nothing of the kind. Instead the satrap threw the man into debtors prison.

Anyone who reads this story feels the king is justified in bringing this satrap in and torturing him. After all, after being forgiven an unpayable debt, he would not forgive a small loan. After being graced so magnificently, he would not extend grace to another. He disgraced grace.

In God's Kingdom there is to be a different standard of forgiveness. Rather than some legalistic measurement, forgiveness should be a part of our very nature. Why? Because, like the satrap in the parable, we have been forgiven a debt we can never pay. This parable is about you and me, not some far eastern satrap.

As a result of this amazing grace that has been given us, we ought to be amazingly graceful to others. How unbecoming it is for a child of God to hold a grudge and refuse to be forgiving. May it not be so among the people of God known as Mississippi Baptists.

White is a member of First Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Standing up for justice

Ex. 23:6-9; Deut. 32:3-4; Ps. 106:3; Isaiah 1:15-17; Amos 5:14-15, 24; Micah 6:8

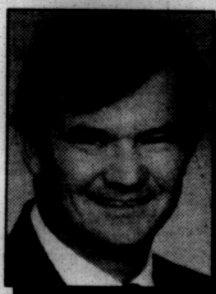
By Hugh Plunkett

Justice is an ideal for any society, but in reality, justice exists in every society. Not everyone in American society receives equal treatment. The Bible provides guidelines about how to practice justice in a world that is often unjust.

Justice can be simply defined as rewarding or penalizing as deserved; fairness, righteousness and of sound reason. Biblical justice goes beyond merely redressing previous inequities; it also involves working to create a just society. God is just, and he expects his followers to champion justice.

We can do it in several ways.

Realize God requires justice (Deut. 32:3-4; Micah 6:8). God is just and righteous and he expects his people to be just and righteous. I can remember as a child learning a valuable lesson about honesty and righteousness. My father and I went to the grocery store. While my dad talked to the store owner, I picked up a candy bar and put it in my pocket. I really don't think I knew it was wrong. I just wanted the candy bar. When we got home, my parents discovered the candy bar. Now, I'm talking about a candy bar that cost a



Plunkett

nickel. Nothing major. No big deal, right? Wrong! My father gathered me up and took me back to the store where I paid for the candy and apologized to the owner. I'll never forget what my father told me. "Son," he said. "I realize you didn't mean to do anything dishonest, but what you did was wrong. Plunketts are honest." I learned that honesty and righteousness were more than mere words to my parents, they were a standard for life. Our Heavenly Father expects no less from us.

Treat everyone justly (Ex. 23:6-9). The economic standing of individuals should not influence how they are treated. The poor should never be victimized by false charges, bribery, or violence. Too many times we have observed persons getting the best justice money can buy. We see it on television, in the

local news, and we observe it as we go about our everyday lives. People of lesser means are easily ignored or pushed aside because they do not seem to possess what represents power; money. God's people should treat all people justly, especially those who lack power or influence.

Champion the cause of justice (Is. 1:15-17). God will ignore the prayers of those who oppress others. Seeking justice is not merely avoiding injustice; it involves protecting societies most vulnerable members. The comic book hero, Superman, was asked why he came to earth. His reply, "to fight for truth, justice, and the American way." When you think about it, this wasn't a bad mission in life. Many people cannot fight for themselves. They are victimized by those in a position to do so and they are made to suffer for it. The scriptures tell us that God despises

this behavior and warns of the consequences, not the least of which is that God will ignore the oppressor's prayers and pleas for help. God's word is plain. We, as God's people, need to champion the cause of justice by defending those who are vulnerable to exploitation.

Preserve justice (Ps. 106:3; Amos 5:14-15, 23). How do we preserve justice? Justice is best preserved when we focus on God's standard of justice, not the justice so the American judicial system or a sentimentalized self-interest. God's justice is fair. God's justice is compassionate. God's justice is not self-serving, and God's justice demands atonement for wrongs committed. If we, as God's people, will practice justice consistently and seek to preserve justice in society, we will experience God's blessing on us and upon our land.

Plunkett is minister of music and adults at Clarksdale Church.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DECEMBER 1-31, 1998 HONORS

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Jim & Judy Alford
Mr. Frederick Barrier
Employees of Maxwell Cotton Company
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Caughman
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Little
Teachers & Department Leaders of Adult II SS
Annie Mae Weaver SSC Calvary BC-Tupelo
Mrs. Franklin E. & Marie Chatham
Elgie W. Chatham
Henry & Elaine Chatham
Elgie W. Chatham
Mr. Jim Lear
Employees of Maxwell Cotton Co.
Mr. Jimmy Lear
Employees of Maxwell Cotton Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Asa Hardison
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Little
Angie Lucas
Mrs. Diane Canty
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Moore
Tom Q. & Nannie M. Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Pierce
Tom Q. & Nannie M. Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Thompson
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Amy Ward
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Mrs. Sibyl Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland
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Ann Rimes Brumfield
Mr. William L. Rimes
Mr. & Mrs. Ira Ashley
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Rev. & Mrs. David R. Hardy
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Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods
Mr. Walter Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Mavis Watts Barham
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Mrs. Grady Barnhill
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Upchurch
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Rev. and Mrs. Ronny Spivey
Byron Bilbo
Arlington Heights BC
Johnathan Allen Binns
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Mr. Dewey Blackledge
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Reggie Blackmon
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Weisinger
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Blackwelder
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Davis
Mr. Hulon Blackwell
Mr. & Mrs. Norman N. Fountain
Mrs. Alma Blakenship
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Mr. Hulon Blackwell
Mrs. Thelma Bess H. Baggett
Mr. Brian D. Blockwood
Mrs. Mary Kyle
Paul Blue
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Hannaford
Mr. Ted Boswell
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay
Mrs. Annie Boswell
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Makamson
Dan Bounds
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds
Mr. David Boykin
Mississippi Round Dance Teachers
Tic Toc Rounders
Mr. Morell Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse H. Oswalt
Shaun T. Brennan
Joe & Dottie Freeman
John Lucas
Roy Brewer
Dr. & Mrs. Horace Holmes
Christine Marie Britt
Ms. Gladys D. Bingham
Mrs. Gladys Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Roy Adams

Mr. Johnny R. Brumley
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil L. Barlow Jr.
Karen Brummett
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Cook Jr.
Mrs. Vera Burcham
Fidelis SSC, E Mt. Zion BC-Baldwin
Christopher Burleyson
Bowen-Ballard SSC-FBC Boyle
Mr. Will Burrage
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Mr. William M. Callahan
Mrs. Pauline Boswell
William P. Callicot
Mrs. Jimmie T. Callicot
Owen Canty
Mrs. Diane Canty
Edwin B. Carpenter
Mrs. Virginia B. Carpenter
Mr. John Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Cory Curtis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Robertson
Mrs. Erin Fowler Carroll
Mrs. Ella Blake May
Sarah Person
Eloise Quinn
Margaret Shepherd
Carlisle SSC, FBC-Grenada
Dr. & Mrs. R. B. Townes Jr.
Mrs. Harriet Carruth
Ann Brumfield
Paul, Kay, Carl & Amanda Gerhardt
Fred Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon
Mr. Jack B. Chapman Chapman
Harold Chevrolet-Olds Co.
Mr. Jack Clanton
Mrs. Russell Clark
Mr. Van Cleave
Bovina Baptist Church
Miss Louise Cline
Dr. Rebecca Legge Wilkie



The India Nunnery staff pose with Santa at a Christmas party sponsored by the members of Harley-Davidson of Central MS, Inc.

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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Russum
Mrs. Minnie Lee Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Gelston
Mrs. V. B. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Horton
Victor Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. James Reynolds
Rev. & Mrs. C. M. Day
Dr. Larry H. Day
Anna Maye Dees
Mrs. Mary Y. Womack
Mrs. Anna Maye Dees
Dr. Rebecca Legge Wilkie

Mr. Joe Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick N. Conerly
Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Ferrell
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil D. Wilkinson
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay
Anna Clara Files
Shirley M. Nowell
Dr. Fred Fisher
Lydia SSC-FBC Batesville
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis
Minnie McCorkle Fisher
M/M William A. Switzer & Paula
W. E. Fleeman, Jr.
Valley Park Baptist Church
Jack Fleeman
Mrs. W. S. Hammond
Mrs. Margaret Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil L. Barlow Jr.
Sam Floyd
Don & Margaret McNeece
Wylene Fortenberry
Mrs. Nell H. Bourland
Mrs. Ann Foster
Ms. Mildred Vines
Mrs. Inez Fowler
Friendship SSC, Tate BC-Corinth
William "Bill" Franklin
Mr. & Mrs. Calton J. Edwards
Tommy Frazier
Mrs. Janet Hall
Mr. Hugh French
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mrs. Ruth French
Mr. Eric Donahoe
Kenneth Frigsatd
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Garst
Christine J. Black
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Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Boulter
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Mrs. Betty Hendricks
Mr. James Milton Garner
Mrs. Ruth Blaylock
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hyslop
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Mr. & Mrs. John W. Head
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Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance
Mrs. Ovella Gattman
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Mrs. Velma Gercas
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Brandy Renee Gibson
Pryor Implement Co., Inc.

Mrs. G. Y. Gillespie
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Ms. Rosemary Brame
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Mrs. H. D. Graham
Mrs. Nancy Granholm
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barbee
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Richie Def Defenbaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Smith
Mrs. Norene West
Mrs. H. B. West
Mr. & Mrs. David Byars
Mike Green
Earl & Beryl Brownlee
Evelyn C. Grier
Mr. John W. Grier
Mr. Frank Griffin
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Mr. Jack Griffin
Dr. & Mrs. Fred E. Tatum
Mr. Perry Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons
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Bob Hall
Mrs. Mary H. Sherwood
Helen Hall
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Mary Norwood Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith Jr.
Mary Chamblin & George M. Hamm
Mrs. Dorothy Hamm Shandera
Benny Harbin
Mrs. Sadie Griffin
John Thomas Harbour
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Mr. Bobby Hardy
Mrs. Patricia H. Hubbard
J. C. Harrell
Mrs. Mary H. Sherwood
Mrs. Vanie Rea Harrelson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

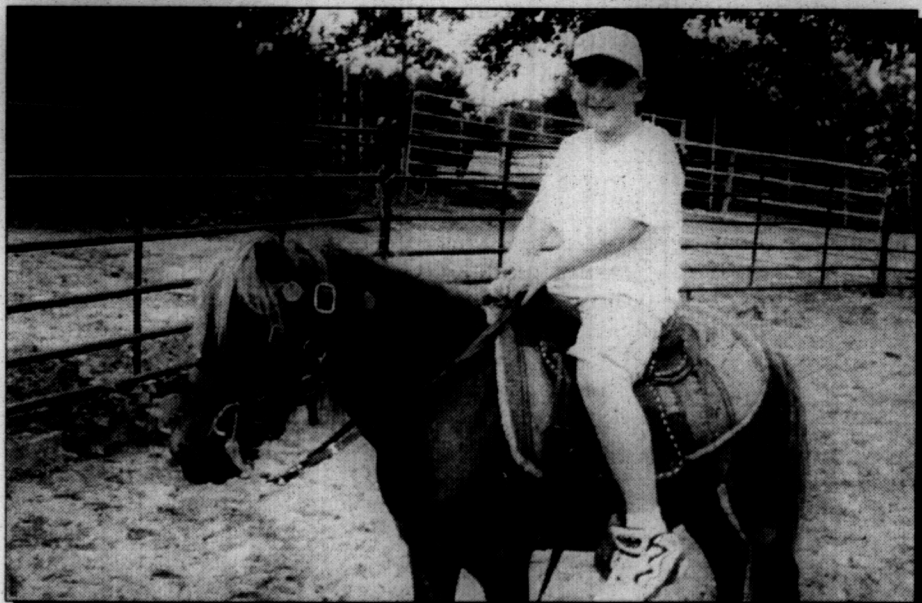


BCV residents were treated to a holiday lunch and entertainment by the youth choir at the Amazing Institutional Church of God in Christ.

Mrs. Gladys M. Britt
Mrs. Ola Adams
Edna B. Martin
David Brocato
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II
Mrs. Sudie Brooks
Mrs. Lynn G. Hardage
James R. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Henry
Mrs. Dixie Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mrs. Mildred Ford "Millie" Brown
Mon. Night Share Group, Eastside BC

Mr. E. S. Sr. Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Cox
Mrs. Woodrow (Inez) Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Sam M. Brand
Mr. Donnie Comeaux
Mr. & Mrs. Ira Lee Kirkpatrick Jr.
Miss Margaret Conner
Ms. Pamela A. Derrenger
Mrs. Ella Conrad
Mrs. Jack P. Harper
Mrs. Edna Cooper
Bobby & Geneva Gardner
Troy Matther Cooper
TEL SSC, Springfield BC-Morton
Ms. Hope H. Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Mrs. W. L. (Lillie Mae) Costley
Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Gordon
Siloam Baptist Church
Ms. Sarah D. Trelawney
Julia & Avis Louise Mullins
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Mr. H. E. Courtney
Mr. & Mrs. Harley Cowart
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Mr. & Mrs. William A. Creckin
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Mr. John Cunningham
Mrs. Margaret Cole Shelton
Mother of Dr. Larry Daggett
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard
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Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Daves
Mr. W. C. Daves
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Daves

Mr. Hugh E. Dickey
Mrs. Stacey Ramsay Gray
Mr. Jim Dickey
Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Summers
James Robert Dickson
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Strowd
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Warren Dykes
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Viola Eichelberger
Ms. Hope H. Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Froman Ellerbe
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge
Mr. Winfred Ellzey
Mr. David E. Bowles
Mr. Barrett English
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Webb
Pete Evans
Mrs. Evelyn M. McCartney
Mattie Everett
Lois Butler
Mrs. Willie B. Minter
Austin "Rip" Fail
Mrs. J. M. Tanner
Forest & Christine Farmer
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Boone
Mr. Farmer
Mr. & Mrs. Dicky Taylor
Richmond B. Fennell
Phillip Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. H. Carl Ferguson



Wesley and the other 12-under residents of the India Nunnery campus enjoyed a day of horseback riding in Pelahatchie.



Derrick was amazed at the Christmas gifts so generously given by so many individuals throughout the state.

'Jesus' film impact felt around the world

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — From 1994-97, teams using "Jesus," New Testament distribution, and other outreach methods shared Jesus with an estimated 156 million people in parts of the Muslim world.

◆ Some strangely dressed people appeared one day at a Christian meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital. They were from the Gobi Altai, a region barely touched by the Gospel. After somehow seeing the "Jesus" film, they had been meeting in a village leader's house to read the Bible. When, they asked, could someone come and start a church?

◆ A film team arrived on a small island in Borneo to show "Jesus." The entire population turned out for the screening; thousands more came on boats from neighboring islands. The audience count surpassed 10,000.

◆ Deeply moved by the crucifixion of Christ as depicted in "Jesus," a Hindu priest in Orissa, India, realized Jesus'

house church in their village and now use the film in outreach.

◆ Local police tried to shut down a "Jesus" showing at a theater in Central Asia. The audience, said a film coordinator, "started yelling at them, booed 'em down, and finally drove them out of the theater. The team went on and showed the film with no repercussions. It showed us the hunger of the people — even in this very Muslim area."

◆ After seeing the film in a drought-stricken village in

India, 200 people became Christians. "Someone suggested they pray and ask God to give them rain," said a report. "Two hours after they prayed, dark clouds gathered and they had the greatest shower that year. This sort of confirmed to them that Jesus is the real God."

◆ After a film showing in India, a follower of the god Ayappa dreamed all his idols — including Ayappa — stood in a circle testifying that Jesus alone is God. The man and his family turned to Christ.



AMAZED — Missionaries around the world report viewers are overwhelmed with sadness by the crucifixion of Jesus, but many cheer at His resurrection — the first inkling many have ever had that there is eternal hope through Jesus Christ's victory over death. The "Jesus" film — based on the Gospel of Luke — has been translated into more than 450 languages and used by thousands of missionaries to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

That's but one of countless facts and incidents underscoring the "Jesus" film's effectiveness in relaying the gospel worldwide. Others:

◆ Up to 500,000 people saw "Jesus" in one day at a mammoth open-air showing in Manila, the Philippines, in January 1998. They watched the film on 18 separate screens and listened to it through big speakers or on a local radio station that received the audio track from a production truck and beamed it to the field where the throng gathered.

◆ "Jesus" has been shown on national television in Iraq, Myanmar, Spain, the West Bank and Gaza, among other lands. Yasser Arafat accepted a copy of the Arabic-language version shown by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation. As many as 10 million Latin Americans saw "Jesus" on television during Easter 1996.

◆ "Jesus" was the hottest seller at the 1997 Cairo book fair in Egypt, where it was packaged with the New Testament. Some neighboring distributors at the fair — including several Islamic publishers — asked the Bible society sponsoring it if they could sell the "Jesus" packet at their stands, too.

◆ An Indonesian pastor started showing "Jesus" a decade ago and has records to show that at least 42,900 people have seen the film through his efforts. More than 2,000 new believers have been baptized and 61 churches planted.

◆ In India, film teams encountered a Hindu group "vehemently against all things Christian." After learning the "Jesus" film was in their own local language, however, they excitedly arranged for a film showing for 750 people.

sacrifice was sufficient atonement for sin. He burned his idols and asked a pastor to cut off the long braids that identified him as a Hindu holy man. Now he shows "Jesus" in neighboring villages.

◆ In Ethiopia, two heavily armed rival clans came to a "Jesus" showing and warily sat on opposite sides of the screen, which could be viewed from either side. By the film's end, many had put down their weapons, crossed over, and embraced their enemies. A new church includes members of both clans.

◆ A Southern Baptist volunteer in India shared the gospel with 20 people crowded into a hut with an antenna sticking out the top. One of the listeners interrupted the volunteer to report that the family had watched "Jesus" on television only two hours before he arrived. "What does all this mean?" the listener asked. The volunteer explained — then led all 20 family members to faith in Christ.

◆ In Myanmar, a man heard the "Jesus" film was about to be shown across the river from his village. He couldn't find a boat making the crossing — so he swam. It took 30 minutes, but "it was worth the swim, because I came to know who Jesus Christ is," he said. He decided to follow him as Savior and Lord.

◆ "Trimo," a Muslim man in Indonesia, was so outraged about a "Jesus" film showing that he came with five recruits and threw cow dung at the screen. Later, however, Trimo and his wife dreamed of a cross full of light. They searched out the film's sponsors, asked forgiveness for what Trimo had done, and found mercy in Christ. They began the first

IMB/Campus Crusade partner in expanding 'Jesus' film goals

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — No one can deny the evangelistic power of the "Jesus" film, but a simple strategy — partnership — is making it even more effective, not only for evangelizing the lost, but for making disciples, starting churches and encouraging church-planting movements.

The film has become "a global resource for the mission efforts of the global church," writes Rick Wood of Mission Frontiers Bulletin. Joint campaigns to use it, he says, are "a grand example of what the Body of Christ can accomplish by working together."

So great is the film's impact that strategists now include it in basic questions about the evangelization of any people group: Do they have the Scriptures in their own language? Do they have a self-sustaining church planting-movement? Do they have the "Jesus" film?

The partnership linking Campus Crusade for Christ's Jesus Film Project and the International Mission Board (IMB) is only one of many mission agency agreements with the film's distributors, but it has become one of the most potent and far-reaching.

Hundreds of Southern Baptist missionaries already were using the film in outreach when Jesus Film Project director Paul Eshleman met with IMB leaders in early 1997. Some IMB media workers and strategy coordinators had served as consultants in translating the film into new languages.

The partnership agreements formalized the team effort — and expanded it. Now IMB missionaries can produce their own translations of both the film and the audio/radio version (called "The Story of Jesus") for high-priority unreached peoples. They use the new translations in their own ministries and make them available to other mission partners worldwide.

"There are so many languages and so little time," says IMB media consultant Mark Snowden. "We celebrate the film now being in 450-plus languages, but there are people groups speaking more than 6,700 languages. It takes everybody working together to get it done."

A subsequent agreement with Campus Crusade has widened the partnership, and several exciting developments have unfolded:

◆ IMB media workers assisted in a major re-edit of "The Story of Jesus" audio script, developed for radio broadcast and the blind. The original version featured six 30-minute episodes, but much of Christian world broadcasting is done in 15-minute segments. IMB media strategists were tapped to rewrite the opening, using an introduction developed for chronological storytelling of the Bible. Trans World Radio is assisting in production of final scripts. Jesus Film Project strategists aim to reach 700 million listeners via radio and another 400 million through audiocassettes — particularly in restricted areas where it's dangerous to show the film or video.

◆ Two new IMB journeymen trained in video production have been assigned exclusively to produce "Jesus" in high-priority languages. After training in Africa and at the Jesus Film Project's master studio in Orlando, Fla., last summer, they moved to the Middle East. They began traveling to unreached areas to dub the film — using a compact production unit that fits into a suitcase. If their pilot project is successful, IMB strategists hope to place traveling production teams in other regions.

◆ IMB and "Jesus" project workers now partner with Wycliffe Bible Translators to ensure that scripts of new film and audio translations are biblically accurate.

"The production team members at the Jesus Film Project's master studio are wide open to working together for the glory of God and the best possible communication of the Gospel," Snowden says.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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N LENH WSJUTMUJ
KGWM VMK, WSEW VJ
LSEZZ HNJ NG VMKU
LNGL: TMU NT VJ AJZNJPJ
GMW WSEW N EQ SJ, VJ
LSEZZ HNJ NG VMKU
LNGL.

BMSG JNRSW: WFJGWV-

TMKU

Clue: H = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eight: Forty Six.